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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An isolated proteoglycan which is derived from a water extract of cartilage of cartilaginous fish and whose main component has a molecular weight of 500 kDa or more.
2. (Original) The proteoglycan of Claim 1, wherein it is insoluble in an alcohol.
3. (Currently amended) The proteoglycan of Claim 1—~~or~~—2, wherein it has a glycosaminoglycan part mainly composed of chondroitin sulfate C.
4. (Currently amended) The proteoglycan of ~~any one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to~~ 3, wherein it has a matrix metalloprotease-inhibiting activity.
5. (Original) The proteoglycan of Claim 4, wherein the matrix metalloprotease is MMP-9, and the inhibiting activity is an effect of canceling a reduction in an MMP-9-inhibiting activity in the blood serum of a tumor-bearing animal fed on a 0.4% by weight-product-containing feed or an effect of increasing, by at least 5%, an MMP-9-inhibiting activity in the blood serum of a tumor-bearing animal fed on a 0.4% by weight-product-containing feed.
6. (Currently amended) The proteoglycan of ~~any one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to~~ 5, wherein it has an effect of increasing a cathepsin B-inhibiting activity when taken in an effective amount into a living body.
7. (Currently amended) The proteoglycan of ~~any one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to~~ 6, wherein it has an activity of increasing the amount of haptoglobin in blood serum when taken in an effective amount into a living body.
8. (Currently amended) A composition comprising the proteoglycan of ~~any one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to~~ 7.
9. (Currently amended) The composition of Claim 8, wherein it is for use in an improvement in quality of life.

Application No. TBA

Docket No.: HO-P03167US0

Amendment dated

First Preliminary Amendment

10. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the proteoglycan of ~~any one of~~ Claims 1 to 7 as an active ingredient.

11. (Original) A method of producing the proteoglycan of any one of Claims 1 to 7, comprising the steps of:

pulverizing cartilaginous fish-derived cartilage into a pulverized product with an average particle diameter of 100 μm or less;

adding water to the pulverized product and extracting water-soluble components from it;

separating an aqueous phase that contains the extracted water-soluble components; and

adding an alcohol to the aqueous phase to produce a precipitate.